

10/542349

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 JUL 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-16 (cancelled)

17.(new) A method for encoding a digital image, wherein, until the encoded image fits into the desired amount of data, the method repeats:

encoding the image into an encoded image, the encoding comprising quantizing causing lossy compression;
decoding the encoded image into an image, the decoding comprising inverse quantizing; and
increasing the losses in compression caused by the quantizing.

18.(new) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein, for the purpose of optimizing the quality of the encoded image, the losses in compression caused by quantizing are increased in such a manner that each encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by 1/4 to 1/100 of the amount of data required originally.

19.(new) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein, for the purpose of speeding up encoding, the losses in compression caused by quantizing are initially increased in such a manner

that each encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by $1/2$ to $1/4$ of the amount of data required originally, and at the end of encoding in such a manner that each encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by $1/4$ to $1/100$ of the amount of data required originally.

20.(new) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein, for the purpose of speeding up encoding, the losses in compression caused by quantizing are increased in such a manner that the first encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by half of the amount of data required originally, and each of the following encodings halves the amount of data required by the encoded image.

21.(new) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the desired amount of data is defined as the size of the file used for storing the encoded image, or as the bandwidth of the data transmission link used for transmitting the encoded image, or as the compression density of the encoded image.

22.(new) A device for encoding a digital image, comprising: an encoder for encoding an image into an encoded image, the encoder comprising a quantizer for performing the quantizing causing lossy compression;

a decoder for decoding the encoded image into an image, the decoder comprising a inverse quantizer for performing inverse quantizing; and

the encoder has a feedback connection through the decoder to the encoder; and

the device is configured to repeat the encoding until the encoded image fits into the desired amount of data by encoding the image with the encoder into an encoded image, decoding the encoded image with the decoder into an image, and increasing, during each feedback, the losses in compression caused by the quantizing in the quantizer.

23.(new) A device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the quantizer is configured, for the purpose of optimizing the quality of the encoded image, to increase the losses in compression caused by quantizing in such a manner that each encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by $1/4$ to $1/100$ of the amount of data required originally.

24.(new) A device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the quantizer is configured, for the purpose of speeding up encoding, to increase the losses in compression caused by quantizing initially in such a manner that each encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by

1/2 to 1/4 of the amount of data required originally, and at the end of encoding in such a manner that each encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by 1/4 to 1/100 of the amount of data required originally.

25.(new) A device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the quantizer is configured, for the purpose of speeding up encoding, to increase the losses in compression caused by quantizing initially in such a manner that the first encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by half of the amount of data required originally, and each of the following encodings halves the amount of data required by the encoded image.

26.(new) A device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the device is configured to define the desired amount of data as the size of the file used for storing the encoded image, or as the bandwidth of the data transmission link used for transmitting the encoded image, or as the compression density of the encoded image.

27.(new) A computer program on a carrier for encoding a digital image, comprising commands to be executed in a computer that, until the encoded image fits into the desired amount of data, make the computer repeat:

encoding the image into an encoded image, the encoding comprising quantizing causing lossy compression; decoding the encoded image into an image, the decoding comprising inverse quantizing; and increasing the losses in compression caused by the quantizing.

28.(new) A computer program as claimed in claim 27, wherein, for the purpose of optimizing the quality of the encoded image, the losses in compression caused by quantizing are increased in such a manner that each encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by $1/4$ to $1/100$ of the amount of data required originally.

29.(new) A computer program as claimed in claim 27, wherein, for the purpose of speeding up encoding, the losses in compression caused by quantizing are initially increased in such a manner that each encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by $1/2$ to $1/4$ of the amount of data required originally, and at the end of encoding in such a manner that each encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by $1/4$ to $1/100$ of the amount of data required originally.

30.(new) A computer program as claimed in claim 27, wherein, for the purpose of speeding up encoding, the losses in

compression caused by quantizing are increased in such a manner that the first encoding reduces the amount of data required by the encoded image by half of the amount of data required originally, and each of the following encodings halves the amount of data required by the encoded image.

31.(new) A computer program as claimed in claim 27, wherein the desired amount of data is defined as the size of the file used for storing the encoded image, or as the bandwidth of the data transmission link used for transmitting the encoded image, or as the compression density of the encoded image.

32.(new) A computer program as claimed in claim 27, wherein the carrier comprises at least one of the following: computer memory, computer-readable memory, telecommunications signal, file used to distribute a computer program.

33.(new) A device for encoding a digital image, comprising:
encoding means for encoding an image into an encoded image,
the encoding means comprising quantizing means for performing the quantizing causing lossy compression;
decoding means for decoding the encoded image into an image,
the decoding means comprising inverse quantizing means for performing inverse quantizing; and

the encoding means has a feedback connection through the decoding means to the encoding means; and the device repeats the encoding until the encoded image fits into the desired amount of data by encoding the image with the encoding means into an encoded image, decoding the encoded image with the decoding means into an image, and increasing, during each feedback, the losses in compression caused by the quantizing in the quantizing means.